



MARSHAL MATTERS APRIL 2021 EDITION

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Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez

May brings warmer weather and more outdoor activities in Illinois. As we begin to roll out the grills, head to the campgrounds, and build fires in our firepits, it's important that we keep fire safety a top priority. Inspect the hoses on your gas grills for leaks and make sure they are placed well away from the house, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Grills should only be used outdoors. If you grill with charcoal, make sure to start to coals safely and make sure they are cool before disposing of them in a metal container. Check with your local fire department or city to ensure that it is legal to have recreational fires in your backyard. Fires caused by these sources are preventable if we follow these fire prevention tips.

Fire departments continue to see an increase in accidents related to home oxygen use and smoking. These two don't mix! If you must smoke, please do it outside. Never smoke in bed or if you are using medical oxygen. Check and test your smoke/CO detectors in your home monthly to ensure they are working and not expired. If you find an expired detector, replace it with a sealed battery detector. Smoke Detectors save lives!

Arson Awareness Week is May 2-8 and the theme highlights critical actions that first responders must take to help ensure a safe response to arson fires during civil unrest incidents. I want to give a shout out to our hardworking and dedicated Special Agents. The OSFM Arson Division closed 53 cases with an arrest in 2020, while continuing operations during a global pandemic. These hard-working men and women responded to 1,051 calls for assistance and our seven accelerant detection canines assisted on 230 investigations.

Arson is a serious crime and I encourage communities and fire departments to work together to help raise awareness to prevent these fires that are costing lives and needlessly putting firefighters in dangerous situations. If you see something, say something. I encourage departments to review their plans for dealing with arson related to civil unrest, as we have seen an increase in activity over the past year and a half. Keeping firefighters safe on the fireground while they protect the lives and property in their communities should be a top priority. A statewide Arson Hotline, (800) 252-2947, has been established so that citizens may anonymously provide information about a suspicious fire that has occurred or may occur.

Arson fires are preventable through education and awareness such as the Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program. To request help from this program you can call 1-844-689-7882 or visit the OSFM website at www.sfm.illinois.gov.

Employee Spotlight



Crystal Blakeman Agency Procurement Officer

Where are you originally from? Springfield, IL

Tell us about your family? My husband and I have two boys: Nolan (10) and Colton (7). They keep us busy with school, sports, and piano lessons. We are a St. Louis Cardinal household. Since Kyle coaches baseball, you will often find us on a baseball field.

Favorite food(s)? Thai and Sushi

Hobbies? Does washing baseball pants count? Lately, spending my days watching my sons play baseball. If I am not on a baseball field, I am reading.

What's your favorite movie or book? Any superhero movie.

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? Country

What did you want to be when you were a kid? Marine Biologist

What's your favorite part of the job? Education and Training. Illinois procurement law and rules continuously change. I enjoy helping both vendors and colleagues navigate the process.

What's something unique about you? I have been to 7 different countries. My most favorite was Switzerland.

Where is your favorite place to vacation? Somewhere Tropical

Where is your bucket list destination? Ireland

Fallen Firefighter/Medal of Honor Ceremony



The Annual Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony is now set for Friday, September 10th. The Fallen Firefighter Memorial service will be held at the firefighter memorial on the grounds of the Illinois State Capitol beginning at 10 AM. Following the ceremony at the capitol, the Medal of Honor Ceremony will take place at the Bank of Springfield Center.

More information about the annual fire truck muster will come at a later date.

The OSFM will be following the latest COVID-19 guidance set in the Restore Illinois Plan to help maintain the health and safety of those attending the events.



The State Fire Marshal Life Safety Award is in recognition of the extraordinary efforts performed by individuals in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety.

*If you know someone who deserves this award you must fill out a nomination and submit the form to us.
The form is [here](#)*

Previous nominees will also be considered, so please resubmit those applications! Provide a brief summary of how this person/department has shown extraordinary efforts in the furtherance of fire prevention and life safety. (i.e. redeeming character, act of kindness, circumstance becoming, particular incident, etc.)

*Nomination deadline has been extended to close of business on **Friday, May 28, 2021.***


Nominations should be submitted to Robin.Sudduth@illinois.gov or, by regular mail,

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
Attn: Robin Sudduth
1035 Stevenson Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62703

All nominee names will be published in our agency newsletter and on our website.

Recipients will be presented the award during the Fire Fighting Medal of Honor ceremony in Springfield, Illinois on September 10, 2021.

Nomination Form



Fire Prevention & Life Safety Award

This award is in recognition of the extraordinary efforts performed by individuals in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety.

Nominee Information:

Eligible Recipient categories (please check one)

Fire Department/Fire Protection District/Township Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISFM Personnel - Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISFM Personnel - Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Person(s) _____

Position Title: _____ Years of Service: _____

Department/Organization _____

Please give a brief summary of how this person/department has shown extraordinary efforts in the furtherance of fire prevention and life safety. (i.e. redeeming character, act of kindness, circumstance becoming, particular incident, etc.)

Nominated by:

Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone #: _____

Department/Organization: _____ E-mail: _____

Please submit this form to:

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
Attn: Robin Suddock 1035 Stevenson
Drive Springfield, Illinois 62703

Please provide the address, phone number and e-mail for the person(s) or department being nominated so that we may notify them if they are selected for the award:



DEI Working Group Update



The OSFM DEI working group met on April 8th. Meeting agenda items included a presentation by Crystal Blakeman, OSFM's Procurement Officer, regarding agency procurement and new statutory mandates impacting minority bidders looking to do business with state agencies. Crystal discuss her efforts to achieve diversity, equity and inclusion for new minority bidders.

Terry Ooms, OSFM Arson Division Manager, led the discussion regarding police power and race.

The working group also adopted a recommendation from Cathy Stashak from OSFM Tech Services to develop an OSFM DEI glossary. This glossary would allow employees to look up terminology that they may not understand related to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

The next meeting will be on May 6th. Likely discussions will include self-awareness and unconscious bias.

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is committed to and values diversity among Agency staff. A Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) working group has been established to provide recommendations to the State Fire Marshal regarding the implementation of our agency DEI policy goals.

Illinois CRR Taskforce

The state of Illinois has established a CRR Taskforce comprised of members from 14 different fire service organizations from across the state. This taskforce meets once a month with the ultimate goal of doing a statewide risk assessment and identifying those risks that are present in Illinois. Once the risks have been identified the CRR Taskforce can work with local communities by providing resources to help reduce those risks!

The mission statement of the taskforce is: Promote the importance of Risk Reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources.

In the near future, a logo will be created, along with a website and social media pages that will come online to provide information about the progress of the taskforce and ways that communities can obtain resources to help build local CRR plans that identify local risks and ways to help reduce those risks. The ultimate goal is to make Illinois a safer state by taking a localized approach to the CRR process.



Youth Firesetter Interventionist Class

Youth Firesetter Intervention Class

The Bloomington Fire Department will be hosting a Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program class for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Here is the training information:

Date & Time: Thursday, June 24, & Friday, June 25, 2021

Registration is from 8:00 am to 8:30 am on Thursday, June 24

Place: Bloomington Fire Department – Station 6
4040 E. Oakland Avenue
Bloomington, IL 61704

If you would like to register for this training, please click here:

https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/YFSIPClass_20210624.aspx

This class is limited to **20 students** due to the current COVID-19 distancing safety measures.

There is a fee of \$100 per student for this class. Please make the check payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and mail it to the Office, prior to the training date:

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
Arson Division – YFSIP
1035 Stevenson Drive
Springfield, IL 62703

For further information, please feel free to call (217) 415-7206 or email me

Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Bloomington!

Simony Weyforth

Youth Fire Setter Program Coordinator



New Training Tracking Tool



New Training Tracking Tool For All Illinois Firefighters

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is excited to announce the launch of Vector Solutions, a time-saving, easy-to-use web-based tool to help every Illinois fire department and firefighter more quickly and easily record training hours.

What Do I Get?

With this free new tool all Illinois fire departments and firefighters can easily track their training hours, resulting in a reduction in recordkeeping errors, paperwork duplication, and time spent manually tracking required certifications and recertifications.

In addition to simplifying your training tracking, OSFM will use this tool to provide communications to departments and firefighters statewide, including information on the latest certification and recertification requirements, the most current news from OSFM, and additional materials as needed. All important information you don't want to miss!

How Do I Join?

We've made it super simple! All you have to do is register with valid email on the [OSFM portal](#). If you do not register, you will not get all of the valuable, time-saving benefits the Vector Solutions tool offers.

Why is this important?

This tool will help OSFM compile updated rosters, enable departments to stay current with training, and provide a more user-friendly experience for submitting the required certification and recertification training documentation for all Illinois firefighters.

What changes are coming to the original OSFM Portal?

At this time there will not be any changes to the OSFM portal. The portal is a separate site that will be linked to Vector Solutions to eliminate duplicate paperwork.

Your participation is key to keeping every fire department and firefighter in the state better connected, better prepared, and better informed. Help us make all our stations and firefighters stronger. Register on the [OSFM portal](#) or visit sfm.illinois.gov under the Current Focus section on the home page for a link to the portal.

TPM Pilot Course



OSFM PS&E Staff attended a Training Program Manager (TPM) pilot course on April 20th with some members in attendance at the OSFM and other online. The PS&E field staff are required to take this training as part of their duties. This was a true pilot delivery and test run for an upcoming class in Peoria.

See Below for another training opportunity.



Training Office (TO) Bootcamp

The Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors is hosting a TO Bootcamp, May 21 (6:00 PM) to May 23 (Noon) at the ParaDice Casino Hotel, 21 E. Blackjack Blvd, East Peoria.

This is grant funded course. Registration fees, lodging and food are supplied by the grant. The TO Bootcamp is limited to 50 attendees. To register, please visit the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors website, <https://www.ill-fireinstructors.org/> To reserve hotel accommodations, call 1-800-547-0711 and reference code 0519SFS or

Online at <https://www.paradicecasino.com/groups> and enter code 0519SFS.

Small Equipment Grant Committee



*Left Side of Table Front to Back: Charles Lauss, Ed Allsman, Jeremy Norris
Middle of Back Table: Fire Marshal Perez
Right Side of Table Front to Back: Mike Dillon, Steve Gambrill, Chris Coats*

The Small Equipment Grant Committee met at the OSFM Springfield Headquarters on April 22nd. The Small Equipment Grant Committee met in Springfield to review applications for the Small Equipment Grant Program. OSFM will award \$3.3 million to eligible fire departments and ambulance services during this application period. An announcement will be coming soon on who will receive the grants!

The Small Equipment Grant Program was established to provide grants of up to \$26,000 for the purchase of small firefighting and ambulance equipment. This program is an innovative approach to a problem that has long caused difficulties for the fire departments and not-for profit ambulance services in Illinois, particularly those that have hardships in generating the necessary revenue for small equipment. The purpose is to allow eligible applicants the opportunity to purchase small equipment that they may otherwise not be able to purchase. Most Illinois fire departments, fire protection districts and township fire departments are eligible to apply. In addition, stand-alone, not-for-profit ambulance service providers are eligible to apply as well.



IFSI Spring Academy Graduation



The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) held their Spring Fire Academy Graduation Ceremony on April 16th. The ceremony was virtual and streamed live on IFSI's Facebook page so family members could watch as their loved ones graduated.

OSFM Deputy Director Alix Armstead spoke at the ceremony welcoming thirty-six graduates to the fire service.

Thanks for your dedication to help serve and protect your communities. Good luck and be safe!



IFSI Minute

AN UPDATE FROM THE ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE



April has been an exciting month for IFSI as we concluded the 98th Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Academy. On 16 April, thirty-six candidates recognized 7-weeks of hard work and commitment during the Fire Academy Commencement Ceremony. We look forward to watching the future contributions these young professionals will make to the fire service.

IFSI also rolled out the 2021 Minimum Fire Training Guide this month. The document serves as a guide for Illinois fire departments and Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) on how to properly train staff to work on the emergency scene safely and efficiently. The complete document is available at:

<https://go.illinois.edu/2021MINIMUMTRAININGGUIDE>

SPECIAL EVENT UPDATE: **FIRE COLLEGE**



Registration for the 97th Annual Fire College now open.

The 97th Annual Fire College will offer 44 class options located across 3 training locations, Champaign, Cherry Valley and Swansea. Students can select from live fire, hands-on, or classroom courses at all locations.

The training is elite, but the tuition costs remain low. And, thanks to funding support from the OSFM, attendees are eligible to receive funded hotel accommodations during the event.

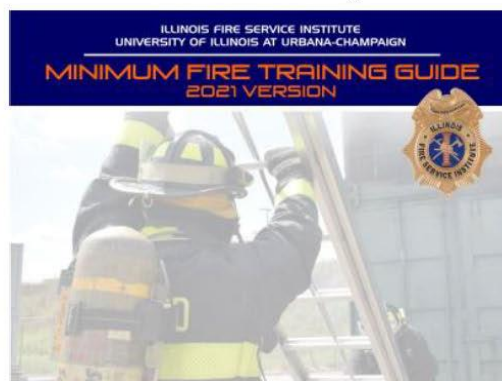
Space is limited – register today. Online registration is strongly encouraged: fsi.illinois.edu

EXPLORER CADET FIRE SCHOOL

Due to University of Illinois COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Explorer Cadet Fire School will be restricted to a one-day event, rather than the traditional four-day format. Additionally, students and chaperones will not be provided overnight lodging as part of the event.

Despite this reality, a full day of challenging, safe and fun training will be provided utilizing the many Champaign props and resources. Registration is now open for the 18th Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School.

Complete event details are available on the IFSI website: fsi.illinois.edu.



IFSI Minute

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

TEAM IFSI



IFSI is proud to introduce the Team IFSI Training Program. Team IFSI Training partners your fire department training division with the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Team IFSI is a basic three-year cycle training plan, to include support materials that allow a training officer or company officer to provide a fundamental and comprehensive training program for their department or crew. The support

materials are packaged in an easy-to-use lesson plan. They include access to PowerPoint presentations, skill sheets, drill plans, and supporting video materials that are needed to deliver quality and effective training. All Team IFSI resources are available at no-cost to departments. For complete details: fsi.illinois.edu

BASIC OPERATIONS FIREFIGHTER BLENDED

We are already looking ahead to the next offering of Basic Operations Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Blended. Four training locations will be available in the next cycle, beginning July 24. Registration is open for the

BASIC

BO

OPERATIONS



IFSI

FIREFIGHTER

**Basic Operations Firefighter
NFPA Firefighter I Blended**

is designed to give firefighters the practical and cognitive training needed to operate safely and effectively on the fireground utilizing a flexible blended schedule leveraging online learning and weekend hands-on practicals.

FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU

BEGINS JULY 24, 2021

<p>4 Practical Sites: Rockford Sherman Streator Swansea</p>	<p>NO COST TRAINING to Students or Departments</p>	<p>18 WEEK PROGRAM featuring 9 Weekend Practical Sessions and Online Learning</p>
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UNIQUE, FLEXIBLE TRAINING LEADING TO CERTIFICATION





Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

IFSA Safety Series



2021 Camp "I Am Me" Fire Apparatus Parade

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 | 11:00am Sharp!



Illinois Fire Service! Camp "I Am Me" is back and the Fire Apparatus Parade will once again be held for our campers! Join us in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Illinois' camp for young burn survivors. On Wednesday, June 23rd, participate with nearly 50 different fire departments from across the state for this camper-favorite activity. Trucks, engines, and command vehicles can have their lights and sirens on while they navigate the campground!



**The 2021 Camp "I Am Me"
Fire Apparatus Parade is
supported by our friends,**



COVID Polices & Restrictions

- ♦ All parade participants entering the campground must stay inside vehicles at all times - before, during, & after parade.
- ♦ This year, campers must watch parade from the road, not be inside vehicles.
- ♦ Nothing should be distributed from vehicles, such as toys, snacks, treats, etc.
- ♦ At the conclusion of the parade route, each vehicle will receive a thank you bag and then must exit the campgrounds.
- ♦ There will be no lunch, appreciation presentations, or Fun Fair held this year.
- ♦ Vehicle line-up will begin at 10:30am. Parade to begin at 11:00am sharp!

Camp Address **YMCA Camp Duncan, 32405 N. Hwy. 12, Ingleside, IL**

Contact Person: _____

Fire Department: _____

We will bring the following vehicle for the parade _____

**Let us know you'll be joining us by completing the online form
at [IFSA.org/get-involved/parade](https://www.ifsa.org/get-involved/parade) or faxing this to (847) 390-0920.**

***Parade participation is only being made available to the Illinois Fire Service.
The general public, families of campers, supporters, and others
are not permitted on the campgrounds per Camp COVID guidelines.***

Campfire Safety

Campfire Safety

Sitting under the stars by a crackling fire has its appeal. It's where stories are told, sing-a-longs happen, and meals are cooked over an open flame. Campfires bring family and friends together. But campfire mishaps can cause injuries. With a few safety tips, you can prevent these accidents.

SAFETY AROUND THE FIRE

- Before setting up a campfire, be sure it is permitted. Check with your local fire department.
- If campfires are permitted, they need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn.
- Clear away dry leaves and sticks, overhanging low branches and shrubs.
- Avoid burning on windy, dry days. It is easier for open burning to spread out of control when it is windy and dry.
- Watch children while the fire is burning. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire.
- Attend to the campfire at all times. A campfire left alone for only a few minutes can grow into a damaging fire.
- Keep a campfire small which is easier to control.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- Always have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to put out the fire. Make sure to put it completely out before leaving the site.
- If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.
- Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.



ROAST WITH CARE

If roasting marshmallows, help young children. Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can cause burns.

FACT

Campfire accidents send thousands of people to emergency rooms with burn injuries every year.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2018

Youth Preparedness Month

April is Youth Preparedness Month and the OSFM joined with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) to raise awareness. Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time and that's why it's so important to be prepared and have a plan in place. Your plan should take into account the needs of kids in your home.

"Each year, millions of children are impacted by disasters," said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. "Studies have shown, children are positive influencers in their households. Children can effectively bring the message of preparedness home to their families. Participating in youth preparedness programs empowers children to become leaders at home and in their schools and communities."

"Kids practice fire drills each year at school, and families should practice these drills at home too," said Matt Perez, Illinois State Fire Marshal. "The Office of the State Fire Marshall encourages families to practice their home fire escape plan twice a year. Every home needs working smoke alarms and a well-thought-out fire escape plan. Make sure all members of your family can identify two ways out of each room and a family meeting spot outside the home."

Resources to help prepare:

[Sparky the Fire Dog](#) is mascot of The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Sparky is used to help educate kids and parents on fire prevention and safety. The NFPA has established a Sparky website and Facebook page that offers a wealth of age-appropriate games, videos, apps and other activities that make learning about fire safety easy and fun.

FEMA and the American Red Cross offer a disaster preparedness activity book, [Prepare with Pedro](#). This booklet is designed to encourage youth and their families to be better prepared for disasters by offering safety advice alongside crosswords, coloring pages, matching games and more.

FEMA also offers a [Youth Preparedness Council](#) as an opportunity for teenagers and young adults to serve on a national council. During their two-year term, the youth leaders complete both a local and national-level project to share ideas regarding youth disaster preparedness.

For more information about disaster preparedness, visit ready.illinois.gov.



National Telecommunications Week April 11-17

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

April 11-17, 2021

Every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community, are honored. This week-long event, initially set up in 1981 by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California, is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is a week that should be set aside so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication.

The OSFM thanks all the men and women who are the first to speak with people in need of assistance. Thanks for all you do! #headsetheroes

Fire Marshal Perez recorded this message expressing his gratitude for all the telecommunicators/dispatcher in the state: <https://youtu.be/sXXBkdvQv8c>



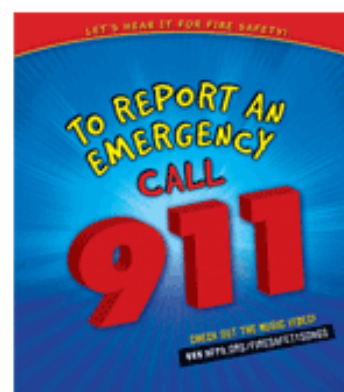
National 9-1-1 Education Month

In 2008, the United States Congress recognized April as National 9-1-1 Education Month, supporting the efforts of the National 9-1-1 Education Coalition to provide resources and materials to support public education about the optimal use of 9-1-1 services nationwide.

Educating kids about Dos and Don'ts of 9-1-1 is very important!

- 911 is for police, fire and medical emergencies.
- If you call 911, don't hang up.
- Don't call 911 for jokes or prank calls.
- When you call 911, pay attention to the questions that you are being asked.
- Stay calm and speak clearly.
- Stay on the line until you are told to hang up.
- Know the address of the location you are calling from

More information and educational materials are available by visiting <http://www.il911info.org/>.



Call Before You Dig Month



April is National Safe Digging Month. If you have a project that requires digging around your yard or property, make sure to call JULIE (8-1-1) before you begin an outdoor project. You can also visit <https://www.illinois1call.com/> and request for utilities to be marked.

- 1) *Identify and mark your dig area*
- 2) *Submit a request*
- 3) *Wait for the paint or flags to be installed before starting your project*
- 4) *Respect the markings*
- 5) *Dig with Care*



Secondary Means of Egress Fact Sheet

Secondary Means of Escape Egress Windows

The purpose of the secondary means of escape is to provide an occupant with an alternate escape route when fire or smoke blocks the primary means of escape from the dwelling unit.

Few of us think of windows as lifesaving equipment, but they are!

During a fire, when you need to escape, identify two ways out of every room in case your primary escape route becomes blocked or when rescue personnel need to enter—the right size egress window can make the difference between life and death.

Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside are operable and are not blocked by furniture.

Requirements of the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2015 edition.

Secondary Means of Escape—EGRESS WINDOWS

NFPA 101: 24.21.2.3.3

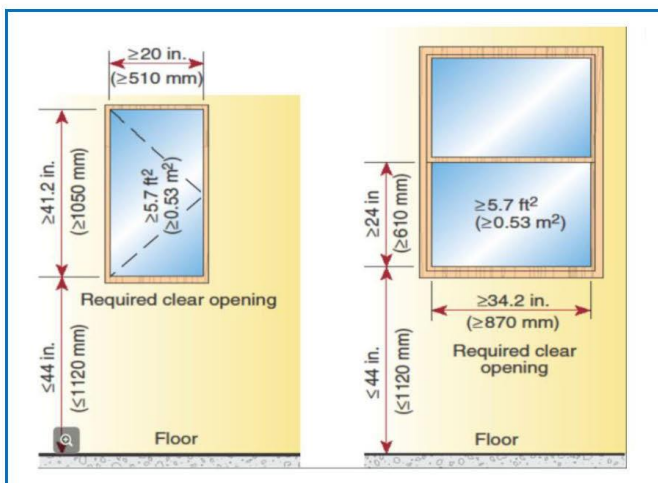
An outside window or door operable from the inside without the use of tools, keys, or special effort, and shall provide a clear opening of not less than 5.7 square feet for new windows.

The width shall be not less than 20 in. and height shall be not less than 24 in. The bottom of the opening shall be not more than 44 in. above the floor.

Such means of escape shall be acceptable where one of the following criteria is met:

- (1) The window shall be within 20 ft. of the finished ground level.
- (2) The window shall be directly accessible to fire department rescue apparatus as approved by the AHJ.
- (3) The window or door shall open onto an exterior balcony.

NOTE: Minimum window requirement of 20" x 24" = 3.33 sq. ft.



Use the worksheet on the back of this sheet to determine whether your window meets the requirements for second means of escape.

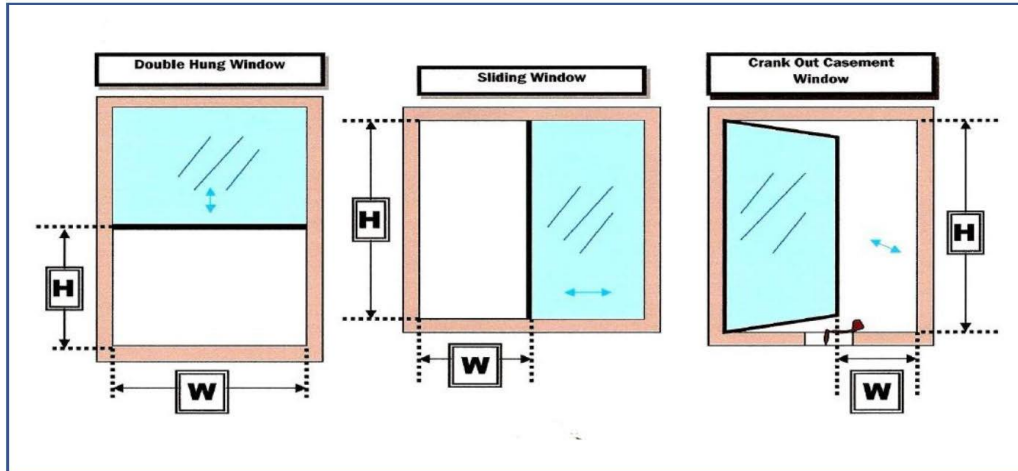
Continued on PAGE 2

April 2021



Secondary Means of Egress Fact Sheet

The code requires that every sleeping room, living area or school classroom must be provided with a secondary means of escape. That means at least one operable window or exterior door that leads to the outside and is approved for emergency egress or rescue.



1. Measure the openable height [H] ____" Is the clear openable height at least 24 inches? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Measure the openable width [W] ____" Is the clear openable width at least 20 inches with the window fully Open? Yes ☐ No ☐
3. Check opening area [H] ____ X [W] ____ = ____ / 144 = ____ sq. ft.
4. Measure from the lower window sill to inside finished floor ____" Is the it 44 inches or less ? Yes ☐ No ☐
5. Measure from the outside window sill to ground level ____" Is the it 20 feet or less ? Yes ☐ No ☐

Special Notes:

Most off the shelf awning and crank out casement windows are not designed to be used as an egress window, when the window opens the sweep of a casement window may impede on the clear opening. These windows may require adding specialized hardware which allows the window to not only swing open, but also swing away. These windows must be fully open when taking measurements.

If you have bars or covers over the window it is allowable, but they must be operable from the inside without the use of special tools or keys. An air conditioner maybe Located in a window where a single egress window is provided unless air conditioners are permanently installed, securely fastened or older heavy unit is installed.

Location	Height	X	Width	=	Total square in.	Meets requirements Y/N
Bedroom #1						
Bedroom #2						
Bedroom #3						
Bedroom #4						
Living Area						
Family Room						
Other Room 1						
Other Room2						
Basement Room						

Distracted Driving Month

← DISTRACTED DRIVING

April Is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

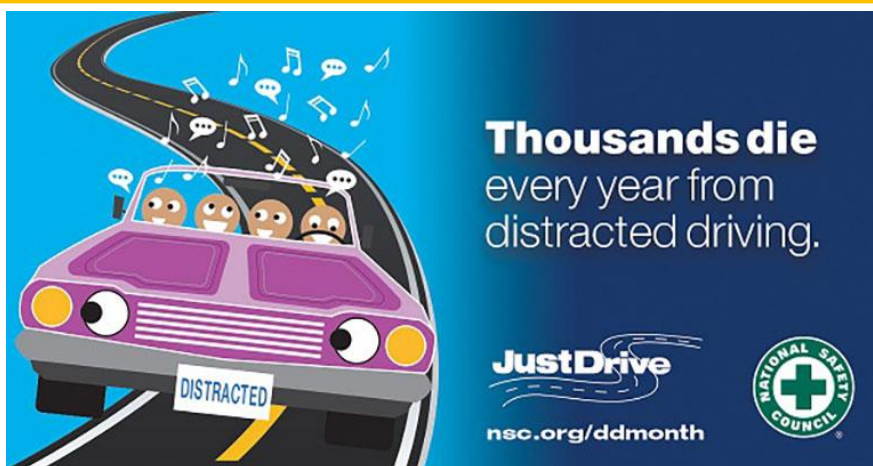
April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. In 2019, distracted driving killed 3,142 people – a 10% increase from 2018. Young drivers seem more prone to using their phones while driving. According to NHTSA research from 2017, drivers 16 to 24 years old have been observed using handheld electronic devices while driving at higher rates than older drivers have since 2007. #DropItandDrive

Take the pledge to be a safe driver!

- Protect lives by never texting or talking on the phone while driving.*
- Be a good passenger and speak out if the driver in my car is distracted.*
- Encourage my friends and family to drive phone-free.*

In life you don't get do-overs and even if you did, things may not turn out the way you expect. When you drive and use your cellphone, not only can you get a ticket, you can also cause a crash where you could die or kill someone else. U Drive. U Text. U Pay.

<https://youtu.be/LjIEp856Lw>



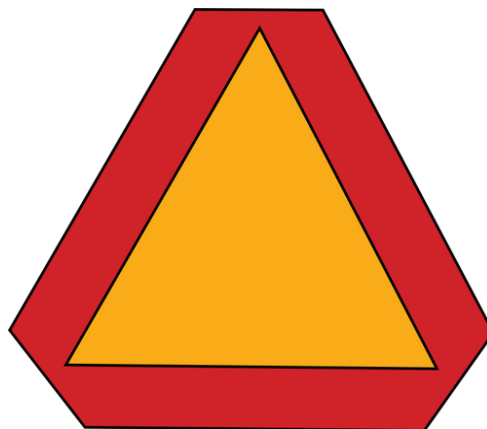
Share the Road with Farmers



Farmers are working hard as Spring planting season is underway. Slow down and allow extra space for these hard-working men and women to maneuver their machinery.

According to the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL), visibility is also a key to safety on the roads. All agricultural vehicles using the public roadways must display the fluorescent orange Slow Moving Vehicle triangle. Additionally, tractors and other self-powered farm vehicles must have proper lighting. According to Illinois law:

- *Lighting is required from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise.*
- *There should be two white lamps on the front of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the front of the vehicle.*
- *There should be two red lamps on the rear of the vehicle, visible from at least 1000 feet to the rear of the vehicle.*
- *There should be at least one flashing amber signal lamp on the rear of the vehicle, mounted as high as possible and visible from at least 500 feet, which can be used during daylight as well.*



Shout Outs/Kudos

Janet Patterson- PS&E

Throughout the years I have had the privilege to work on different items with Janet. She has always been very helpful, knowledgeable and wonderful to work with. She has guided me thru different items within the OSFM portal and other misc. stuff.

This year we had some hiccups when submitting our 2020 OSFM Claim Reimbursement form. Janet worked with our Training Division to submit the necessary missing documents. I am pretty sure she had many other items on her desk to work on. Her assistance, patience and understanding with us, went above and beyond.

You have a wonderful team working along your side. I just wanted to make sure you are aware, and what a privilege it is for us to have someone like Ms. Patterson to work with too.

Roseann Hernandez

Aurora Fire Admin Office

Alix Armstead- Deputy Director

Over the past year Alix has worked with the IFCA and has met, talked, discussed issues of concern that will help the organization grow in so many ways that are positive. IFCA – DEI Committee that will be formally recognized as a working committee at our next IFCA meeting. Alix will serve as the OSFM liaison to the group.

Jim Grady III

IFCA Executive Director



Bob Kowalski- Petroleum and Chemical Safety

Wanted to take the time to tell you how great & helpful Bob was today. You have a really great employee and you can tell he loves his job. He is also very knowledgeable.

*Thanks, Yolotta
Zone Manager
Chicago District*

GO TEAM!

Kids' Corner**MY FIRE SAFETY PLEDGE****I PLEDGE TO BE A:****SMOKE ALARM SUPERSTAR**

I know that every home needs working smoke alarms. I will:

- Know the sound a smoke alarm makes. Beep, Beep, Beep!
- Get outside and stay outside when I hear the smoke alarm.
- Ask a grown-up to test the smoke alarms once a month.

**ESCAPE PLANNING EXPERT**

I will make a home fire escape plan with my family which includes:

- 2 ways out of every room.
- A safe outside meeting place.
- Practicing our plan at least twice a year.

**HAZARD HUNTER HERO**

I will always:

- Remember the 3-foot "kid-free zone" around anything that could get hot.
- Stay away from anything that is hot or could be hot.



Pledged by

OSFM

Take Sparky's Fire Safety Pledge by visiting <https://www.sparky.org/pledge>. You can get your own certificate.

Pledge to be this in your home:

- Smoke Alarm Superstar
- Escape Planning Expert
- Hazard Hunter Hero